

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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ATTENTION EDITORS, REPORTERS, NEWS DIRECTORS:

GOV. AND FIRST LADY TO LIGHT NORTH CAROLINA'S CHRISTMAS TREE

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley and First Lady Mary Easley will light the official North Carolina Christmas Tree on **Thursday (Dec. 6) at 6 p.m. on the west side of the Capitol grounds** facing Hillsborough Street.

The Millbrook Madrigal Singers from Millbrook High School will perform from 5-5:30 p.m. The Raleigh Concert Band will perform from 5:30-6 p.m. Gov. and Mrs. Easley will hang wreaths on the Capitol's west doors to start the ceremony at 6 p.m.

The Department of Cultural Resources Secretary Libba Evans will speak at the event along with Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker.

Throughout the night, a dropbox will be available for people to donate to the Food Bank of North Carolina, a private, non-profit organization that distributes food to more than 700 non-profit emergency feeding programs. The Food Bank needs powdered milk, canned meats and fish, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, canned fruits, vegetables and soups, dried beans and fruit, cereal, pasta and rice, and diapers.

Following the tree lighting ceremony, the State Capitol will host an open house until 8 p.m. with music by the Raleigh Ringers and the Executive Mansion will host an open house until 9 p.m. featuring holiday decorations with musical entertainment. The Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh will sponsor a holiday festival of music and family entertainment on Capitol Square and Bicentennial Plaza following the ceremony. The Museum of Natural Sciences, the Museum of History and the Raleigh City Museum will be open with family oriented activities.

This event is sponsored by the N. C. Departments of Cultural Resources and Administration, Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh, Raleigh Garden Club and the Raleigh Merchants Association.

Note: The lighting of the tree will be at 6:27 p.m. Parking for TV trucks and limited camera riser space will be available. Please call 733-5612 for more information.

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